

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of  
The Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico  
May 20, 2025 at 12:30 PM  
UNM Student Union Building (SUB) Ballroom B & Cherry Silver Room  
*Livestreamed at <https://live.unm.edu/board-of-regents>*

Members Present

Paul Blanchard, Chair  
William Payne  
Christina Campos  
Victor Reyes, Vice Chair  
Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer  
Jack Fortner  
Patricia Williams

Administration Present

Garnett S. Stokes, President; James Holloway, Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs; Teresa Constantinidis, EVP for Finance and Administration; Mike Richards, EVP for Health Sciences and CEO of the Health System; Rebecca Napier, VP Finance & Administration, HSC; Norma Allen, University Controller; Shawna Wolfe, VP Institutional Support Services; Fern Levo, VP Athletics; Assata Zerai, VP Equity and Inclusion; Eric Scott, VP Student Affairs, Dan Garcia, VP Enrollment Management; Daneil Jones, General Counsel; Francie Cordova, Chief Compliance Officer; Kevin Stevenson, VP HR; Terry Babbitt, President's Chief of Staff; Cinnamon Blair, Chief University Marketing and Communications Officer; deans and others

Advisors Present

Andrew Norton, ASUNM President; Travis Broadhurst, GPSA President (via Zoom); Cris Elder, Faculty Senate President

CONFIRMATION OF PRIOR SPECIAL MEETINGS IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Regents met in closed session on May 09, 2025 from 12:00 pm to 1:30 PM on Main Campus in Scholes Hall, Roberts Room. The meeting was held in closed session under the following Open Meetings Act (NMSA 1978) exceptions: discussions of limited personnel matters as defined in and permitted by Section 10-15-1(H)(2), NMSA (1978). Regents present in person were Paula Tackett, Paul Blanchard, Victor Reyes, Christina Campos, Patti Williams, Bill Payne and Jack Fortner. There were no administrators present. The matters discussed were limited to those specified in the notice and agenda for the meeting; there were no matters upon which official action was taken.

CALL TO ORDER AND CONFIRMATION OF A QUORUM

Chair Paul Blanchard called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm in the UNM Student Union Building, Ballroom B and confirmed a quorum with all 7 members present in person.

VOTE TO ADOPT THE AGENDA

- The motion to adopt the agenda passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1<sup>st</sup> Fortner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett).

VOTE TO CLOSE THE MEETING AND PROCEED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The motion to close the meeting and proceed in executive session passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes; roll call vote - all members voted yes)

*[Regents proceeded upstairs to the Cherry Silver Room for the Executive Session luncheon.]*

Executive Session agenda:

- Discussion and/or determination of matters subject to the attorney-client privilege pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the University is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H(7).
- Discussion and/or determination of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1H(2).

- Discussion of personally identifiable information about an individual student, as permitted by NMSA 1978, § 10-15-1.H(4).

#### VOTE TO RE-OPEN THE MEETING

- **The motion to re-open the meeting passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1st Payne; 2nd Campos).**

Regent Blanchard re-opened the meeting at 1:55 pm in the Student Union Building, Ballroom B and certified that only matters listed in the above Executive Session agenda were discussed in Executive Session.

#### VOTE TO CERTIFY THAT ONLY THE ITEMS LISTED ON THE EXECUTIVE SESSION WERE DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION

- **The motion to certify that only the items listed on the Executive Session agenda were discussed in closed session passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1st Reyes; 2nd Payne).**

#### VOTE TO DECLINE TO REVIEW APPEALS TO THE BOARD (5 total)

- **The motion to decline to review appeals to the board (five in total) passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1st Fortner; 2nd Tackett).**

#### VOTE TO RENEW THE PRESIDENT'S CONTRACT

- **The motion to renew the President's contract as permitted by paragraph 2 of the December 2022 employment contract extension and consistent with NM Statute 10-15-1 passed unanimously with seven regents present and voting (1st Tackett; 2nd Fortner).**

#### Land Acknowledgement Statement of the University of New Mexico

Regent Blanchard affirmed UNM's Land Acknowledgement Statement by reading it aloud:

*Founded in 1889, The University of New Mexico sits on the traditional homelands of the Pueblo of Sandia. The original peoples of New Mexico - Pueblo, Navajo, and Apache - since time immemorial, have deep connections to the land and have made significant contributions to the broader community statewide. We honor the land itself and those who remain stewards of this land throughout the generations and also acknowledge our committed relationship to Indigenous peoples. We gratefully recognize our history.*

#### VOTE TO CONFIRM THE APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **The motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2025 meeting passed 6-0-1 (1st Fortner; 2nd Reyes). Regent Williams abstained.**

#### PRESIDENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

President Stokes emphasized the administration's awareness of the uncertainties impacting the UNM community as federal policy implications ripple through to UNM's core missions of service, including research, student aid and support, patient care, and teaching and learning. She reiterated the existence of Rapid Response Teams that continue to monitor new developments and recommend and implement clear and actionable solutions. She noted that the UNM community is continuing to serve New Mexico and make a difference every day.

Some highlights on her report included the many stoling ceremonies and graduation ceremonies that she attended and participated in; various awards bestowed on students and staff for service, leadership, academics and athletics. She highlighted achievements in research with examples including a vaccine for Alzheimer's disease and the use of ecological forecasts in studying climate change.

President Stokes voiced her support for the increase in athletic student fees in light of the transforming landscape of college athletics and the importance of maintaining national exposure by optimizing various sources of revenue. She gave several examples of how Lobo Athletics contributes significantly to the community and to the state.

In closing, she expressed deep gratitude to campus leadership, faculty, staff, students and the Board for collaboratively forging ahead in light of all the challenges of the past year.

#### REGENT COMMENTS

Regent Blanchard asked if UNM led the Mountain West in championships. AD Lovo noted that if San Diego State did not win an additional championship, then UNM would lead the Mountain West.

Regent Payne commented on an article in the Chronical of Higher Education and the impact of AI on the University environment. He encouraged everyone to read the article.

#### ADVISORS COMMENTS

Chris Elder, Faculty Senate President, noted that the faculty senate voted on a resolution to establish mutual academic defense compacts in defense of academic freedom, free expression, institutional integrity and the research enterprise. She then read the resolution.

Chris Elder read comments for Ivan Olay, Staff Council President, who thanked the regents for their attention and support over the course of his time as Staff Council president. He extended an invitation to the staff appreciation barbeque on May 21. He noted the many recent initiatives by Staff Council to enhance the workplace and quality of life for the University's staff. He urged the regents to continue to include staff voices in decision making.

Andrew Norton, ASUNM President, who introduced himself and thanked the regents for all the work that they do. He noted that after consideration, there are concerns with the timeline of the increase in Athletic Student Fees, given the many increases in various fees that students have incurred already.

Tarvis Broadhurst, President of GPSA, introduced himself and thanked the regents for allowing time for student voices to be heard. He noted that GPSA passed two resolutions recently regarding DEI initiatives and programs and transparency regarding university investments. He echoed ASUNM's concerns about the increases to the student fee for athletics.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT RELATED TO AGENDA

There were no public comments related to the agenda.

#### ADDITIONAL REGENTS' COMMENTS

Regent Reyes thanked Chris Elder for her service as President of the Faculty Senate and his personal appreciation for her contributions and insights. He also thanked Michel Rivera Ramirez for his contributions in elevating graduate student voices. He also thanked Anthony Tomaziefski for his service and remarkable work as ASUNM President.

#### VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Blanchard confirmed that two items from SSTAR Committee (items 2 and 3) were removed from the originally published consent docket, then called for a vote to approve the amended consent docket.

- The vote to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously (1st Reyes; 2nd Tackett)

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### VOTE TO APPROVE FY26 OPERATING BUDGET FOR HSC, MAIN AND BRANCH CAMPUSES

Jeremy Hamlin, Director, University Budget Operations, OPBA, requested formal approval for the budget which reflects a 6% increase over last year.

- The vote to approve the FY26 Operating Budget for HSC, Main and Branch campuses passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Payne; 2<sup>nd</sup> Reyes)

VOTE TO APPROVE THE SPRING 2025 GRADUATES

Cris Elder, President, Faculty Senate, presented a total of 3,731 spring graduates from all UNM campuses.

- The vote to approve the 2025 Spring graduates passed unanimously (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Tackett)

VOTE TO APPROVE POSTHUMOUS DEGREE

Cris Elder, President, Faculty Senate, read a letter written by Ann Murphy, Chair, Department of Philosophy for a posthumous MA degree for Anthony Kanowitz.

- The motion to approve the posthumous degree for Anthony Kanowitz passed unanimously (1st Reyes; 2nd Tackett)

- VOTE TO APPROVE ATHLETICS STUDENT FEE PHASED INCREASE

Fern Lovo, Athletics Director and, VP, Athletics fielded questions before a vote for approval. Questions for discussion included prioritization and distribution of new funds; equipment needs and funding sources; travel and fundraising; peer institutions and competitiveness; the proposed phased approach and timeline; Title IX priorities; softball and baseball improvements funding; the process to determine at the proposed increase amount; previous fee increases; Name/Likeness/Image (NLI) issues; capital projects and legislative funding; and the losses that occur due to the lack of consistent, incremental tuition and fee increases.

Regent Payne made a motion to approve requested increases to the student fees for athletics. Regent Fortner seconded the motion.

Regent Reyes made a motion to amend the original motion, changing the fees to the following: \$45 per semester for undergraduates in the 2025-26 academic year, with an increase to \$60 per semester for the 2026-27 academic year; and \$30 per semester for graduate students in the 2025-26 academic year, with an increase to \$60 per semester in the 2026-27 academic year. Regent Williams seconded the motion to amend.

The motion to amend the original motion passed with a 4-3 roll call vote (Reyes, Williams, Campos, Tackett – yes; Blanchard, Payne, Fortner – no).

The motion to approve increases to the student fees for athletics as amended passed with a 4-3 vote (1<sup>st</sup> Reyes; 2<sup>nd</sup> Williams; Reyes, Williams, Campos, Tackett – yes; Blanchard, Payne, Fortner – no).

PUBLIC COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

There being no further business, Regent Payne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Regent Reyes seconded; all were in favor; the meeting adjourned at 2:42 pm.

Approved:



Paul Blanchard, Chair

Attest:



Paula Tackett, Secretary-Treasurer